

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205202
ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 /030 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/D:RSSMITH:PLD
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OPIC/P/IM:CMIDDLETON
OPIC/ID:AKRAMISH
OPIC/F:FHILL
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-----090971 142107Z /73
R 141947Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE OPIC INVESTMENT MISSION TO MOROCCO

REF: (A) STATE 139728
(B) RABAT 3733

1. ON AUGUST 2, OPIC VICE-PRESIDENT ROBERT S. SMITH
LUNCHEDED IN WASHINGTON WITH ABDELLATIF MOUMILLE, DIRECTOR OF

INDUSTRY OF THE MOROCCAN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.
THE DISCUSSION TURNED TO THE EARLIER PROPOSED OPIC MISSION
TO MOROCCO. MR. MOUMILLE OFFERED TO FOLLOW UP WITH ODI AND
THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY.

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2. ON AUGUST 7 SMITH RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM MR.
BENABDERRAZIK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ODI, WHO SAID
THAT THE KEARNS INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT HAS NOT YET BEEN
SIGNED. HE SAID IT WAS SITTING IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.
HE DOES NOT SEE IT AS A DUPLICATION WITH A POSSIBLE OPIC
MISSION SINCE HE SEES IT MORE AS A LONG TERM ARRANGEMENT.
SMITH EXPLAINED THAT IT LOOKED TO OPIC LIKE DUPLICATION TO

SEND AN OPIC-SPONSORED MISSION IN THE SAME YEAR AS FOUR SMALL KEARNS-SPONSORED SECTOR MISSIONS. SMITH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT OPIC WOULD PROBABLY BRIEF AND DEBRIEF PARTICIPANTS IN THE KEARNS MISSION AND MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE SOMEONE FROM OPIC PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE MISSIONS. BENABDERRAZIK PROMISED TO STUDY THIS AND INFORM OPIC OF THE GOM'S VIEWS ON THIS APPROACH.

3. AUGUST 8 SMITH RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MOHAMED BENJELLOUN, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR OF THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, ON THE SAME SUBJECT. AFTER HEARING SMITH'S EXPLANATION OF THE SITUATION, BENJELLOUN IMMEDIATELY PUSHED FOR AN OPIC MISSION RATHER THAN FOUR SMALL KEARNS-SPONSORED MISSIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT OPIC HAS MORE CREDIT AMONG INVESTORS AND WOULD CARRY MORE INFLUENCE. HE ADDED THAT THE KEARNS CONTRACT IS LIABLE TO BE DELAYED SEVERAL MONTHS.

4. FYI. OPIC IS STILL STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INVESTOR MISSION TO MOROCCO WHICH COULD OCCUR IN 1979. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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